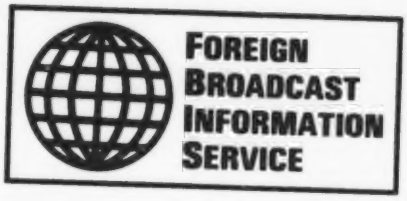

Daily Report

Latin America

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C.A. Foreign Ministers Postpone Meeting

PA1705050088 Paris AFP in Spanish 2357 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] San Jose, 16 May (AFP)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal reported today that the meeting of Central American foreign ministers that was scheduled for this week in Honduras has been postponed until early June at Guatemala's request.

Madrigal said that Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica were ready to attend the meeting but Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera has a busy agenda, probably as a result of the foiled coup attempt of 11 May. [passage omitted]

In addition, Madrigal said that Spain, the FRG, and Canada have accepted the invitation from the Central American Governments to appoint a technical commission to verify compliance with the security aspects of the Central American peace agreements.

Canada, "which is the country with the greatest degree of experience in these matters," is drawing up a plan to effect the verification, the Costa Rican foreign minister said.

Canada's decision to participate in the Central American peace plan was confirmed here on Monday by a delegation of the Special Committee of the House of Commons headed by John Bosley at the end of a fact-finding tour of the region.

Regarding progress with the implementation of the peace plan, Bosley said after a meeting with Madrigal that "there are problems but the (regional) leaders continue to be optimistic and feel that this process is the only long-term solution to their political, economic, and social problems."

NOTIMEX Director on ASIN Use of Satellite

FL1205194488 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2240 GMT 12 May 88

[Excerpt] Mexico, 5 May (NOTIMEX)—Hector Manuel Ezeta, director of the Mexican news agency NOTIMEX, today offered the use of the Morelos satellite communications channel for the broadcasts of press services and agencies which are members of the Official Information Systems Activity (ASIN).

NOTIMEX made the offer during the working sessions being held by Latin American and Caribbean ASIN directors. Ezeta said that the Morelos satellite coverage can reach Central America and the Caribbean. The countries in that region could easily have access to and relay the information with a ground station and a system developed in Mexico.

During the working sessions, Roberto Savio, ASIN operations director and director of the International Press Service agency (IPS), recommended that the legal framework of the regional organization be strengthened through ratification by the congresses of the 19 ASIN member countries and by modification of certain clauses of its charter to give flexibility and accessibility to the information it transmits.

He also reported that Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay are interested in joining ASIN and that they are doing a detailed study on the conditions and the information services which will result from this alliance.

Roberto Savio made it clear that IPS has decided that the operating cost for the transmission of the information to the various countries will be charged in national currency instead of the hard currency [as received] with which it is currently paid. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Soviet Minister of Internal Affairs Arrives

FL1805014188 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Colonel General Aleksandr Vladimirovich Vlasov, Soviet minister of internal affairs and member of the CPSU Central Committee and of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived in Cuba heading a delegation. Division General Jose Abrantes Fernandez, minister of interior and member of the PCC Central Committee, and other Ministry of the Interior chiefs received Minister Vlasov at the airport.

The Soviet delegation and its Cuban hosts held a working session this morning in the fraternal atmosphere of cooperation which characterizes the relations between the two ministries. Previously, Minister Vlasov placed a flower wreath at the foot of the monument to our national hero in Revolution Square.

Intergovernmental Conference With USSR Begins

FL1705033988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0208 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Ministers, and Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, presided over the opening of the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Soviet-Cuban Commission.

Trade, maritime transportation, results of economic and scientific-technical cooperation, and cooperation in the nuclear and electronic fields will be subjects discussed at the meeting.

Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez expressed his pleasure in the gathering of the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Commission and in the fraternal spirit which prevails at the (?meeting).

Kamentsev, the Soviet deputy chairman, gave thanks for the warm welcome and for the hospitality rendered to his country's delegation during its visit.

SWAPO's Nujoma Seen Off by Risquet, Departs

FL1605122388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], has departed Cuba after fulfilling an official visit at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, and other party and state leaders said farewell to Nujoma at the Jose Marti International Airport.

During his stay in Cuba, the SWAPO president and his delegation held official talks with the PCC. They were also received by our commander in chief.

At the end of his visit to Cuba, Nujoma held a news conference in Havana.

In reference to the beginning of negotiations in London on the situation in South-West Africa, Nujoma said that SWAPO completely supports the talks and the efforts made by Cuba and Angola to reach a peaceful solution in the region.

He added that during his recent visit to the United States, he told Political Affairs Under Secretary Michael Armacost that Washington should pressure South Africa to end the illegal occupation of Namibia.

Comments on Peace Talks

FL1605140388 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, has departed Cuba after fulfilling an official visit at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

Just prior to departing, the African leader confirmed in a press conference that the defeat of South Africa's aggressive policy against the frontline countries has forced it to abandon its intransigence and sit down at the negotiating table.

We proceed with much encouragement, said Nujoma, because we are not alone. We are accompanied by the revolutionary forces of the world, he added.

Acting ANPP President Meets Mexican Senator

FL1705132588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has received Dr Alejandro Sobarzo Loaiza, Mexican senator, who arrived in Cuba on 14 May.

The international situation and the struggle for peace were discussed during the bilateral meeting.

The Mexican senator is in Cuba at the invitation of the ANPP. He has toured areas of historic and social interest.

Politburo Approves District Creation, Census

FL1705124088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] At its final meeting last week, the Politburo of the PCC Central Committee approved the creation of districts in the city of Santiago de Cuba. The Politburo also

approved a nationwide population and housing census in 1990 and a study for the implementation of an automated registry of permanent population indexes.

The creation of districts is in response to studies conducted on the improvement of the political-administrative division. They will be implemented in Santiago de Cuba this year.

One of the goals of the 1990 census is to provide the party and state with current statistics on the principal characteristics of the population and their housing. This census will allow the collection of information for the future creation of an automated registry.

The decisions approved at the last meeting of the PCC Politburo are of primary importance in controlling the activities of government organizations and supplying more information on the population in order to plan our long-term development strategy with more objectivity.

Fernandez Speaks at Union Forum on Education

FL1205211888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1916 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Cuban Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez has said that the so-called Third World countries are currently facing a profound economic crisis as a result of the unpayable foreign debt.

Speaking at the continental trade union conference on the current situation and possibilities for education in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Cuban minister stressed that the region has more than 44 million illiterate people. This is one of the most serious problems affecting the development of the region, he said.

Fernandez added that the frontal struggle against ignorance is one of the most important tasks confronted in the many battles fought by education workers and trade union organizations. There currently exist more than 1 billion men and women throughout the world who live at a marginal level in education, health, and culture, said the education minister.

The conference participants were welcomed by Pedro Octavio de Armas, who stressed the need to discuss the causes of the problems that burden our peoples. Pedro Octavio, secretary general of the National Trade Union of Education, Science, and Sports Workers, said that the enemy is trying to divide us and we should struggle to maintain unity and define concrete actions that can be taken against the imperialists.

The statements made at the event will be a contribution toward achieving the political goals of national liberation and the democratization of the peoples of the region, added Pedro Octavio.

He stressed that 36 organizations representing more than 5 million education workers are attending the trade union conference.

Offer To Host UN Crime Congress in Cuba

FL1705134488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Cuba has offered to host the Eighth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Treatment.

Speaking at the Social Committee of the UN Economic Council, Oscar Oramas Oliva, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, reaffirmed his country's offer, which was officially presented to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Cuban diplomat stressed the need for rapid international action to confront the increase of criminal acts that could threaten the process of development, personal security, as well as national security. He also reiterated his support for the creation of a world-wide information network on the prevention of crime and penal justice in coordination with UN institutes and other international organizations.

Haiti

3 Injured in Shooting at Contraband Checkpoint

FL1605215588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] Three people were shot and wounded this morning when soldiers posted at the weighing station in the (Melier) area, before the Leogane bridge, fired on a Suzuki jeep which ran a roadblock. Our correspondent Wilfrid Napoleon is here and will give us more details on this.

[Napoleon] This morning at approximately 0640, a team of soldiers from the Dessalines Barracks who were lurking at the (?Melier) weighing station on the road to Leogane fired on a Suzuki jeep, license plate number 9027.

Three people were wounded: (Antoine Crevecoeur), the jeep's driver, who got shot in the behind; (Evans Delva), a student in "seconde" class at College Gerard Gourgue, who got shot in the side; and (Vanna Saint Surin), a student in "seconde" class at College Eliott Pierre, who was hit by several bullets in the thigh.

We were told that (Vanna)'s condition is very serious. They even said that (?she) might lose her foot [as heard].

Certain people have said that the soldiers shot at these people because they did not stop at the weighing station to be inspected. They say the Dessalines Barracks soldiers are there to inspect trucks that pass with products they suspect might be contraband. They normally inspect big trucks, but always let cars by without any

problems. Furthermore, according to (Ghislaine Crevecoeur), who was in the vehicle, the soldiers did not even blow their whistle at the vehicle.

The driver, (Antoine Crevecoeur), is now being cared for at St Francis de Sales Hospital. He is the brother of several high-ranking Army officers, including Captain (Sainbert), who is the commander of the "Cafeteria" [police post on Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines]; and Captain (Lauture Crevecoeur), who is in the engineers corps. He is also the brother of Colonel Raoul Remy, retired.

Regarding these measures that have been taken to control contraband for some time now, they have set up roadblocks at the (Anacaona) outpost in order to inspect passing trucks. They make all the section chiefs come down and do (?sentry duty).

Many observers say they don't understand how Dessalines Barracks soldiers came to be on sentry duty at the weighing station, which is 8 km (?from) the (Anacaona) outpost. Also, according to certain people who live in (Melier), these soldiers fire their guns every day.

Our reporter (Morrison) managed to interview one of the wounded persons. [(Morrison)] I went to the General Hospital. I don't know if you interviewed the wounded, but I talked to 19-year-old (Evans Delva), who is a student at College Gerard Gourgue and who explained to me how he and the other two men [as heard] with him got shot:

[Begin recording] [(Morrison, in progress])...circumstances under which you got shot.

[(Delva)] I am a student. I come in from Leogane to go to school every morning. [passage omitted] The soldiers saw us passing in a private vehicle. (?Today, on the road north), a soldier took his weapon and fired at us. (?They hit) the three of us. I got hit by three bullets in the foot [as heard]. We don't know why. They didn't blow their whistle at us. There wasn't (?a sign or anything), nothing at all. They just started firing at us.

[(Morrison)] Who were the three people in the vehicle? [Words indistinct] students, or what?

[(Delva)] Two other students. I am at Gerard Gourgue's. One of the others is at Saint Pierre [as heard]. The other one has already finished school; he is a government employee. [passage omitted]

[(Morrison)] What did you do when they started shooting?

[(Delva)] Nothing. We just [words indistinct] and then they took their weapons and shot at us, without our having done anything at all.

[(Morrison)] Did you go on?

[(Delva)] No, we stopped. We stopped. [Words indistinct] he shot at least 15 bullets. He made the vehicle stop. He shot at the vehicle.

[(Morrison)] When he came up to you, what did he say?

[(Delva)] He didn't say anything. He just came up, mad, and then turned away. [end recording]

Students Issue Protest Note

FL1705160788 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] College Eliott Pierre, one of whose students, (Vanna Saint Surin), was shot on her way to school this morning, has issued a communique on this occasion. Here is what the press release issued by the Student Association of the college says:

We live in a country in which the people responsible for providing security are sowing terror and death all over the place. They shoot people dead at the drop of a hat. Thus, this morning, 16 May 1988, soldiers dressed in olive green at the [words indistinct] post on the road to Leogane riddled a car with bullets. Three people were very seriously wounded. [passage omitted].

In view of this tough situation, we are increasingly coming to realize that the lives of all schoolchildren are in danger. They are kidnapped, arrested heavy-handedly, shot at, beaten, and killed.

We are wondering where all this is taking us, and when all this is going to stop in Haiti? When are they going to consider students human beings in Haiti?

We students of College Eliott Pierre vehemently protest all these acts of banditry. We ask all students throughout Haiti to rise up in solidarity and organize. We salute all those students who have already fallen, and we express our solidarity with all those who are suffering, because one student's problem is every student's problem. [passage omitted]

Jeremie Youth Group Protests School Closing

FL1705163088 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 16 May 88

[Report by Jeremie correspondent (Hugues Leopold)]

[Excerpts] College (Etzer Villaire) has been shut down for 1 week after a clash around 1000 today, 16 May, between Assistant Principal (J.B. Leone) and the students, in which the police intervened.

Last Wednesday, (Leone) expelled student (Wintchel Colas) for a month. The student decided to change schools and went to get his report card from (Leone), who refused to give it to him. An argument broke out and the assistant principal went and got a policeman. The presence of the policeman at the school ruffled the students' feathers, and they began

shouting "Down with (Leone)" and throwing rocks at (Leone's) car and at the policeman. The latter drew his pistol, and (Leone) had to rush him back to where he got him. However, the students went on demonstrating and yelling "Down with (Leone)."

I must tell you that (Leone) is also the government representative in Jeremie.

In this same connection, the group in Jeremie known as the "28 November Youth Movement" has issued a press release on this same matter. It says: If at school, where parents are seeking an education for their children and where students should feel the safest, they are given macoute actions as examples, one has to wonder when this macoute business will be over in Haiti. [passage omitted]

The note continues: We take this opportunity to remind all students in all schools that the only guarantees they have against macoute directors and flunky teachers is proper organization on the part of the students.

The note concludes: Down with macoute directors and teachers! Long live respect for students in all schools! [passage omitted]

Gas Stations Cut Hours; Insecurity Cited

FL1705163888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] Insecurity at night in Port-au-Prince has forced service stations to change their hours. Gas stations will henceforth be open from 0700 to 1800. These new hours went into effect yesterday, 15 May, and were decided on during the 5th Anadipp convention held last weekend at the Ibo Lele Hotel. Anadipp is the National Association of Distributors of Petroleum Products.

The escalation of violence that has been occurring for a while now has already claimed 12 victims [as heard] from among Anadipp members. In the resolution adopted at the end of its convention, Anadipp asks the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to get the forces of order to effectively guarantee the security of the lives and property of gas station employees and of members of Anadipp, so that the association can resume normal service as soon as possible.

We remind listeners that on Friday night, the Texaco station at Nazon was held up and one person shot and killed, while a second person suffered a bullet wound. [passage omitted]

Gas Hoarding, Incident With Pastor Reported

FL1305214688 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 13 May 88

[Excerpts] Gasoline is becoming scarce in northwestern Haiti and is being sold on the black market. [announcer switches to Creole] Our correspondent, Michel Edouard, informs us that there is no gasoline—or at least very little—in the northwest. He reports that some people are hoarding it in drums in order to sell it on the black market.

He also tells us about an incident making news in the area involving the former president of the BED-/Northwest [Departmental Electoral Office for the Department of the Northwest]. Here is Michel Edouard:

[Edouard] The incident that occurred at the tax office in Port-de-Paix on Wednesday, 11 May, is still in the news. This morning, Justice of the Peace (Julien Vincent) heard (Henri Max Th. Jeanson) and Pastor (Allen Box) after an incident that occurred at the tax office. Employees say that (Jeanson), the former president of the 17 January BED, struck Pastor (Box). However, (Jeanson) told the justice of the peace that he had not. The pastor, however, said (?that he almost had). [passage omitted]

Street Vendors Told To Move; Clashes Occur

FL1305215488 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 13 May 88

[Excerpts] In midweek, Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain had announced that the small vendors along the Grande Rue would be moved soon. [passage omitted]

The moving of the vendors began yesterday on Rue des Fronts Forts, and led to a few clashes. The mayor told the paper LE PROGRESSISTE HAITIEN, which interviewed him in connection with yesterday's clashes on Rue des Fronts Forts: It is a commonplace incident. This is not the first time this has happened. I have already been mayor of Port-au-Prince, from 1983 to 1986. As soon as certain interests are at stake, one must expect this kind of problem.

The important thing is for each person to assume his responsibilities. Mine consist of watching over the state of sanitation and cleanliness of the capital's streets, Romain told the paper. [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

NAR Suspends Dissident Parliamentarians

FL1605124588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2233 GMT 15 May 88

[text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 15, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's strife-torn ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) on Sunday suspended five dissident parliamentarians, including deputy leader Basdeo Panday, immediately fuelling speculation of the formation on a new party.

A special meeting of the party's top decision-making national council took the decision after hearing disciplinary charges against former External Affairs Minister

Panday, former Works Minister John Humphrey, former Public Utilities Minister Kelvin Ramnath, former Junior Finance Minister Trevor Sudama, and backbencher Raymond Palackdharrysingh.

The council has referred the charges to the NAR's national executive which is expected to pass them on to the disciplinary committee for further action. In the meantime, Panday and his colleagues have been barred from participating in any party activity until further notice.

Sudma, said to be main strategist of the dissident faction known as Club 88, said afterwards they anticipated expulsion by the disciplinary committee after the tone set by the National Council.

It appears that that is the crossing of the Rubicon. I don't think there's any turning back now, Sudama told CANA.

Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, the principal target of criticism by the group, said the action showed the "party is taking control of its affairs."

The rift between Robinson and the faction widened after he sacked Panday, Ramnath, Humphrey, and Sudama in two separate cabinet reshuffles in November and February.

The group was hoping to have Robinson censured at the forthcoming NAR annual conference, but the National Council's suspension now bars them from taking part in this forum.

The meeting of the National Council, the highest body outside of the annual party conference, met specifically to consider a report on the NAR's internal problems prepared by a council-appointed tribunal headed by Junior Legal Affairs Minister Anthony Smart. The tribunal recommended eight charges each be levelled at Panday, Humphrey, Ramnath, and Sudama, and one charge against Palackdharrysingh.

The charges were: (1) conduct to bring the party and its members into disrepute; (2) statements to introduce racism and regionalism; (3) bringing the office of the prime minister into contempt; (4) embarassing the political leader and/or his office; (5) engaging in acts in the House of Representatives in a manner aimed at embarassing the ruling party; (6) formation of Club 88 using a symbol which adapts the NAR symbol as registered with the Elections and Boundaries Commission without the permission of the party; (7) activities not keeping with proper order and peace in the party; and (8) failing to follow directives of the National Council.

Only charges No 5 was leveled against Palackdharrysingh.

After the National Council voted to suspend the five, Panday walked out of the meeting with 50 supporters.

Many NAR members afterwards expressed doubt over whether the party could weather this latest storm which has left Panday, one of its frontline leaders, with no voice whatsoever at any level until further notice.

After indicating that he might not have been able to attend, Robinson arrived late at the session and had little to say until the various motions accepting the recommendations and suspending Panday and others were made.

When Panday and his supporters walked out, Robinson was then called upon to address the group.

As I said, nobody could accuse the political leader of seeking to influence the party in anyway. I sat, I observed, I did not participate in any visible manner, he said. The party agonised over the situation, took its decision, and that is the way forward in my view, acting as a responsible body in charge, in control, he added.

Asked afterwards by CANA if he believed the suspensions would cause a deeper split in his former four-party grouping, Robinson replied: no, I am not worried at all.

We've taken a long time. The party has taken a long time. It has been very deliberate. It has been very responsible. I have the utmost confidence in the population of this country and, therefore, I am not worried, he added.

In his speech to the remaining party supporters gathered at the St. Augustine Senior Comprehensive School hall, Robinson launched a broadside attack calling for patriotism from the party and the population.

For those ambitious individuals who are seeking to remove the prime minister by unconstitutional methods, let them understand—its their own safety that they're endangering in the future if they have ambitions to be prime minister, Robinson said.

He also attacked the main opposition Peoples National Movement (PNM), the drug industry, and those he said were seeking foreign intervention into the country's political scene.

Robinson said one of two methods open to rivals for ousting him as prime minister would be through parliament. He pointed to the unsuccessful opposition-laid no-confidence motion against him two weeks ago.

The other option, he said, would be the removal of the political leader at the party's annual conference, but even this, he added, still left the political leader as prime minister with the option of calling general elections.

No way...can the pretenders achieve power in the kind of way they're going about. What they're doing is mashing up the party and what they're doing is damaging the country—totally destructive course with no object and no hope whatsoever of achieving what they're setting out for, Robinson said. I want the party to understand that

clearly, Robinson said, adding that once a weakness appeared in a ruling party in a country like Trinidad, foreign forces would turn up.

Sudama, in his comments to CANA, complained that the procedures of the National Council meeting had been all wrong.

The council had no right to suspend the group pending the action by the disciplinary committee since the group would have no chance to defend itself at the annual conference or on any other forum, he argued.

Similiar accusations by House of Representives Speaker Nizam Mohammed about the procedures during the meeting had led to him being shouted down by party chairman Senator Herbert Atwell.

Mohammed complained to reporters outside that Atwell had railroaded the session. He called for the NAR's other deputy leader, Karl Hudson-Phillips to intervene at this point.

Sudama said the group expected the next step to be the invoking of the Crossing The Floor Act which allows a bye-election in the constituencies of those no longer belonging to the party under which they were elected.

All five suspended parliamentarians are believed by analysts to carry solid support in their constituencies, sited in the Indian-dominated Central Trinidad sugar belt.

Members To Air Grievances

FL1705144888 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Five members suspended from Trinidad and Tobago's ruling party say they will hold public rallies to air their grievances against the government of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

Opposition leader Basdeo Panday has commented on Sunday's dismissals saying that there was a faction working to heal the rift in the party and charges Mr Robinson with wanting to defeat that move.

One political analyst in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Selwyn Ryan, says the action to suspend five members of the NAR will lead to major changes in the political situation in the country. Mr Ryan, who is the head of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of the West Indies, said there is likely to be further splits in the coalition party.

Suspensions 'Orchestrated'

FL1705160388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2035 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 16, CANA—Five suspended members of Trinidad and Tobago's strife-torn ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) say their suspension was orchestrated.

"This is the way it was planned to happen," Former Public Utilies Minister Kevin Ramnath told a small meeting on Sunday night hours after the suspension.

The party's National Council suspended Ramnath and four other backbenchers—former External Affairs Minister and Deputy NAR leader Basdeo Panday, former Junior Finance Minister Trevor Sudama, former Works Minister John Humphrey and Raymond Palackdharrysingh.

It (the suspension vote) was obviously engineered, Panday told CANA Monday morning from his South Trinidad home. It was not unexpected.

Pansay said the group would continue its public meetings to test sympathy and support for the suspended team.

Ramnath said Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson spent Saturday at NAR headquarters in Port of Spain organising the Sunday event after putting out news that he would be busy with matters of the state and cancelling all public engagements.

The suspended MPs and their supporters, self-christened as Club 88, came to prominence for their growing public complaints of Robinson of power for the NAR.

A reshuffle in November 1987 dropped the most vociferous of the group, then Works Minister John Humphrey, from the Cabinet.

Continued comments and the holding of a series of more public meetings resulted in a second reshuffle in Feburary of this year in which Panday, Ramnath, and Sudama were also dropped.

On Sunday, disciplinary action was taken barring the five, including Palackdharrysingh, from holding any kind of office at any party level until they have been dealt with by the disciplinary committee.

Asked how he would deal with the possible invocation of Trinidad and Tobago's Crossing the Floor Act—forcing by elections for the five on non-NAR platforms—Panday said: That's Robinson;s problem, not mine. If we cannot win our seats, we should not be in politics, he said.

We will continue our work of going out and informing the people. Eventually, they will really have to decide what happens to the NAR...The eventual arbiter is always the people, Panday added.

We have to study the situation. We have not really looked at the implications, Ramnath told CANA.

Ramnath, who sought to analyse the voting patterns on Sunday, said that the vote to pass on the recommended charges to the disciplanary committee—by 100 to 77—showed that the five dismissed members had carried the sympathy of a large amount of the council. He described those voting for disciplinary action as coming from the party's parliamentary arm, the county councils, and Tobago—the base of Prime Minister Robinson.

Taking the 77 delegates who voted against the disciplinary course of action from a council in which three representatives per constituency are allowed, Ramnath said this meant that the vote in favour left the constiuency voters to make up their own minds—leaving over 18 constituencies against the motion.

We've just been charged...the charges could very well be frivolous but yet we've been denied to function as officers of the party, Ramnath complained.

The NAR formed from the merging of four, opposition party groups in Feburary 1986. It consisted of Robinson's Tobago-based Democratic Action Congress (DAC), Panday's then parliamentary opposition United Labour Front (ULF), the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) or Karl Hudson-Phillips, and the academic-based Tapia House Movement.

The NAR took power in December 1986 bringing about the country's first change of government in thirty years.

Committee Chairman Resigns

FL1705184588 Bridgetown CANA in English 1643 GMT 17 May 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 17, CANA—The chairman of the governing party's disciplinary committee has announced his resignation to avoid hearing charges against five prominent members, including deputy leader Basdeo Panday, who are under suspenion.

Nizam Mohammed, speaker of the House of Representatives, said he will refuse to preside over the disintegration of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) which is a merger of four parties one of which was led by Panday.

The suspensions are pending the referral of a series of disciplinary charges against the five to the party executive which, in turn, is expected to pass on the charges to the disciplinary committee. The usual procedure would be for the disciplinary committee to hear and investigate charges and take appropriate action but an amendment passed at Sunday's National Council session placed a temporary interim ban on the five effectively barring them from any party activity.

Mohammed had stormed out of that meeting claiming party Chairman Senator Herbert Atwell had railroaded the session by not allowing debate on one particular technicality Mohammed had sought to discuss.

I have taken a decision to resign as chairman and member of the disciplinary committee, Mohammed said. To date, I have done everything possible to hold the NAR together and let good sense prevail. I will not preside at any level over the disintegration of the NAR nor am I going to do anybody's dirty work for them.

Mohammed said his resignation would be sent to party headquarters on Wednesday after Tuesday's public holiday. He said that his resignation as House speaker was not an issue.

Mohammed had left the Sunday session at the same time as Panday and his supporters following the vote suspending Panday, and former Ministers Kelvin Ramnath, Trevor Sudama and John Humphrey, and backbencher Raymond Palackdharrysingh. Mohammed complained to reporters about what he called the party's abuse of Panday, one of the NAR founder members. He had also accused prime minister and NAR leader, A.N.R. Robinson of showing what he called his true political colours adding that he said so without apology even if it did mean he would have to face the party's disciplinary committee.

Mohammed, former opposition chief whip during Panday's days as leader of the parliamentary opposition, is one of the remaining former members of Panday's United Labour Front (ULF) with a post in the 17-month administration.

Sunday's disciplinary action at party level followed the ejection of Robinson and three of his key supporters from the Cabinet in November 1987 and February 1988 reshuffles.

El Salvador

Rey Prendes, Castillo on PDC Party Conventions

PA1705184288 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 88

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara and Mauricio Funez]

[Excerpts] [Guevara] Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes has said that if he is not the presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], he will not be the candidate of another party. The former culture and communications minister did not admit to a rupture within the PDC. However, he accused Fidel Chavez Mena's followers of holding illegal conventions. [passage omitted]

On Monday, Rey Prendes said a rupture in the PDC is being planned through hasty and illegal conventions. He said he will be the PDC's candidate or else he will not be a candidate.

[Begin recording] [Rey Prendes] People who were talking about unity now appear to be siding with Dr Chavez Mena. They are planning new conventions. I do not understand this unity when these people are setting up illegal conventions. These conventions are being made outside the statutes and guidelines. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Would you be willing to withdraw your candidacy, if that were needed to overcome the crisis?

[Rey Prendes] The fact is that you are proposing a solution like the one Chavez Mena apparently proposed. He has said he leaves it up to the party to decide on his candidacy. But, what party? Is it the party he is setting up to elect him on (?Friday)? The party that he [words indistinct]? I can leave it up to the legal convention to decide on my candidacy. I am always at the disposal of the PDC's legal convention. If tomorrow the PDC's illegal convention does not like the statutes and guidelines and wants to change candidates, [words indistinct]? [end recording]

[Guevara] Rey Prendes also accused the promoters of the extraordinary convention, held at the Interior Ministry, of using state property for political purposes. President Duarte strictly forbade this. [passage omitted]

[Funez] Roberto Antonio Castillo Claramount insisted that the national convention held on Saturday by the majority of the PDC Political Committee complied with the party's statutes. Therefore, the agreements adopted in the Rey Prendes convention have no validity.

[Begin Castillo Claramount recording] The fact is that after Saturday's event there is no doubt that, and this was [words indistinct] one authority has to decide which event is decisive, which is legal, and which is not legal. I say that the event we held is absolutely and totally legal. Many people were with Rey Prendes at first. I am talking about convention delegates from San Miguel and La Union Departments, for example. Those people began to reflect and to voice their concern. They said that [2-second break in reception] could take place throughout the country. There you have the letters. There you have the credentials. There you have the documents. These documents will be submitted to the appropriate authorities in due time [words indistinct]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Funez] Castillo Claramount labeled his group as institutionalist. He said his group will not create another PDC. He warned that it will up to Rey Prendes to withdraw or stay in the party. This will depend on whether or not Rey Prendes insists on maintaining his presidential candidacy, which is doomed to failure, Castillo Claramount said.

FMLN Attacks Cause Increased Energy Rationing

PA1705152088 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] President Jaime Abdul Gutierrez has announced an increase of an extra hour in electricity rationing in San Salvador and its suburbs as of yesterday, thus increasing the total to 5 hours a day without electrical energy. He also said the increase of 1 hour of rationing is a result of the country's critical energy situation. The lack of rains and continued sabotage by the FMLN against electrical installations account for the service's precarious condition. He also said if the situation becomes more critical, rationing may have to increase to 8 hours.

The problem became more serious because of FMLN sabotage actions in the last few hours, which have left six transmission lines cut in Nejapa, Cerro Grande, San Antonio Abad, Nejapa-Opico, and other locations. The Soyapango and Nejapa substations were also isolated. The CEL president said that the only substations currently operating for San Salvador are those of Nuevo Cuscatlan and San Antonio Abad.

Bodies of 25 Rebels in Dam Attack Discovered

PA1705124788 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 May 88 pp 2, 44

[Text] The bodies of 25 terrorists who attacked the La Chorrera del Guayabo Dam have been found on the border between Chalatenango and Cabanas Departments.

Eight Army troops and nine FMLN-FDR fighters were killed last week when the latter attacked the dam in question, located on the border between the two regions.

At dawn yesterday, a group of Army sappers located the bodies of 25 guerrilla fighters who were wounded and fled on the day of the attack; they died later.

The bodies were buried yesterday in a common grave to prevent environmental contamination in the region. The find was made between Los Ramirez and Eramon Canton, San Antonio La Cruz jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department, several kilometers southwest of Chalatenango City.

Yesterday Salvadoran and foreign reporters who traveled to the region were not allowed to enter the areas where the bodies were scattered because FMLN-FDR rebels had mined the area to prevent their presence.

The Armed Forces inflicted 64 casualties on the FMLN 7-14 May, while the terrorists kidnapped and murdered peasants.

Among the casualties in question, according to the military report, 29 were killed and 35 were wounded. The Army also seized 17 high-caliber rifles, 8 pistols, 1,200 cartridges, 461 explosive mines, 13 fragmentation grenades, 1 communications radio, and a considerable amount of material for the fabrication of explosive devices.

The Army reported 18 deaths and 24 wounded as a result of the clashes with FMLN subversives. The report adds that during the same period, the rebels killed 12 peasants and kidnapped 15. Meanwhile, 4 other people were killed and 16 wounded by antipersonnel traps.

It was also reported that during the past few hours, soldier Santos Daniel Luna Ramirez was kidnapped by the insurgents; he was on leave from the Arce Battalion, headquartered in San Miguel, and was visiting relatives in El Amaton Canton, Jucuaran jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

Meanwhile, peasants Pablo Acevedo, Manuel Maradiaga, Basilio Alvarado, and Oscar Pineda were kidnapped from La Esperanza Canton, San Sebastian jurisdiction, San Vicente Department.

Guatemala

President Cerezo on 'Act of Insubordination'

PA1705171288 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE (Sunday Supplement) in Spanish 15 May 88 pp 6, 7

["Shortened version" of interview with President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] What do you think was the cause of Wednesday's incident?

[Cerezo] That small but significant act of insubordination that could have grown into a military uprising is the consequence of many months of a continuous barrage of disinformation directed at junior officers and designed to evoke certain specters of our past political life. To this end, certain facts were distorted. For example, the government has pledged to resolve the serious economic problems our nation has faced in recent years. This decision meant a delay in the procurement of certain items that are indispensable for the functioning of the state, such as police patrol cars, spare parts for vehicles and military equipment, cranes for ports, and other things. Many of these scarcities occurred because when we took over the government we did not have the economic resources to purchase those items.

As a result of this, certain people or groups began to say, for example, that the failure to immediately provide the Army with items necessary for it to do its job was part of a secret plan to weaken the Armed Forces. I must tell you that, fortunately, most Army officers asked their superiors about those rumors and received an explanation of the true state of affairs. Some others who did not ask, however, believed those arguments and began to feel uneasy. [passage omitted]

In the months prior to the last elections, those who had access to true, unmanipulated polls realized that the results might favor the Christian Democratic government. They then began to step up the disinformation. There appeared things like the anonymous publications of the "Officers of the Mountain," making charges of corruption among top Army officers and top government officials and reporting alleged plans to weaken the Armed Forces and to replace the country's democratic leadership with communists. [passage omitted]

Certain officers were persuaded that this was the general thinking throughout the Armed Forces and that action was required, allegedly to save Guatemala. Naturally, they decided to take this action, incited by people outside the Army and by officers who had been expelled for irregular conduct.

All these months of disinformation created the conditions for this act of insubordination, and that is all it was. It never reached the status of a military uprising.

Those who promoted the uprising demonstrated once again that they do not understand that democracy has its corrective procedures and that destroying the system is not the way to achieve their goals. Those are the methods of the past, in which the Army was used as a tool; today things have changed, and no one must manipulate others.

[Reporter] Why hasn't the government denounced those people and groups that are "playing" with democracy?

[Cerezo] Because Guatemala's present legislation is very modern and very advanced in terms of guarantees for all people [words indistinct] be very careful to avoid making accusations without real grounds. [passage omitted]

We now have concrete proof and the names of people who will be investigated, although they will not be brought to trial. They will be interrogated and will be

asked to make a statement. The names of several civilians who have been mentioned will be sent to the Attorney General's Office so it can be determined if they should be charged with sedition and undermining the state's stability.

[Reporter] One's attention is drawn to the fact that the president insists on calling Wednesday's incident "a small act of insubordination."

[Cerezo] It is true the Army has acknowledged that a small crack appeared in its ranks. Nevertheless, the most interesting aspect is that despite the pressure exerted so the Army would act against the country's Constitution, it has remained strong. [passage omitted]

We insist on calling it an act of insubordination because of all that could have happened if the campaign to incite the Army had achieved the desired results. The movement could have provoked a coup d'etat. By terming it an act of insubordination, we are placing it in its correct dimension, because the people who provoked it—and who will surely now deny having attempted a coup—were only trying to create instability.

[Reporter] Public opinion is divided: One group thinks it was a political maneuver by the government to gain a stronger position; others believe it was a fake action by the Army to warn all groups about its power; and a third group thinks it was a real coup attempt.

[Cerezo] Precedents show that we have been systematically playing with political stability. This incident, no matter how small, will cause us problems. Some of the repercussions will be positive, because they will bring about a high level of awareness among various groups that the government's slogan, "Democracy is everyone's task," is much more than just a message; it is a reality.

This incident also will make everyone think about the importance of the Army, which is fundamental for the country's social and economic development. In addition, it showed that the Army is the backbone of the democratic process, because respect for institutions will be guaranteed by the armed institution. To contact the Army and incite it to rebel, as was done in the past, is to try to use it.

In any case, we think there will be some negative repercussions: tourism and investment will decrease in the coming weeks because few people visit and invest in countries where there is a possibility of a coup. To this must be added that the Army will also be harmed because there might be a decrease in the prestige that it had earned and that had led it to be seen as one of the main groups interested in respect for democracy. Some people might begin to think Armed Forces members are interested in becoming political leaders and in this way returning to the past.

In any case, we must understand something: The government is not interested in playing with instability. This is because instability causes economic damage and because the Army would not lend itself to such a farce that could damage its prestige. To believe that the government could be so heartless as to sacrifice the career of several officers is extremely cruel.

[Reporter] What do you think your image is among the Army's young officers?

[Cerezo] We have earned the officers' confidence, although sometimes that disinformation campaign affected us. Nevertheless, I have the impression that this confidence will increase in the future. In the face of this situation, we will act with objectivity and maturity—without political passion—and by quickly responding to the concerns of some officers. What happened shows that there are some things to which we must pay more attention. To have an institution that is not governed by discipline and total obedience could lead to involuntarily forgetting its needs and rights.

[Reporter] How does that share of civilian and military power that you have mentioned on several occasions now stand?

[Cerezo] I honestly believe that civilian power has been strengthened and will be further strengthened after this incident. Perhaps it is because of this that some people think that what occurred was a maneuver. The reality is that it was something that will help consolidate democracy.

[Reporter] Some analysts view the incident as an action by a sector of the Army to warn the government about its real power. They also view it as an expression of its rejection of some government measures, such as talks with the guerrillas, the economic policy, and diplomatic relations with some countries. If there is more pressure not only from the Army but also from various groups, how far would you be willing to yield? Would you be willing to sacrifice some officials or friends in favor of the advance of democracy?

[Cerezo] There will no yielding. The truth is that what we cannot justify is the method used to express any concern. We have paid attention to all the suggestions made. What has happened is that some situations that are normal for the process through which we are passing have been exaggerated. As for some government decisions such as talks with the guerrillas, they are basically due to ideological positions that favor democracy. If we get the insurgents to accept the dialogue as the means to resolve differences, we will have ensured that they will act within the democratic process, which is the opposite of armed struggle.

The president's position is to not accept any blackmail. The civilian and military officials remain in their posts not because of their friendship with the president but because of their efficiency.

[Reporter] On many occasions you have stressed the influence of the media in incidents such as that on Wednesday. How responsible do you think they are for what occurred?

[Cerezo] I frankly think they have a high degree of responsibility. Even though rumors and lies are published in Guatemala, we are not going to restrict freedom of expression or thought in any way. Newspapers print headlines that are unconfirmed rumors. They only reflect a lack of maturity, experience, and seriousness. Many of those rumors have an impact on public opinion and give shape to things that are untrue and that in the end inspire actions. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] One last question. If there were a coup as a result of which you would face an extreme situation, whom would you emulate: Chilean President Salvador Allende, who died because he did not want to resign, or Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz, who had to go into exile?

[Cerezo] Neither Arbenz nor Allende. I want to stay and turn over the Presidency to whoever is elected to succeed me. This is a decision I have made; I did not reach the Presidency to resign or to be forced out. I will stay here, and if someone wants to oust me, it will have to be by force. Those who plan to oust me must consider the possibility of committing murder, because I will not surrender.

In any case, I do not think that will happen. The truth is that the president has absolute confidence in the people entrusted with his security. I know their loyalty will prevent such a thing.

Politicians Comment

PA1705170088 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] The impending disclosure of the list of officers and civilians supposedly linked to Wednesday's events continues to be preceded by speculation. Rumors say former presidential candidates Gustavo Anzueto Vielman, Mario David Garcia, and Lionel Sisniega Otero, as well as other politicians such as Danilo Roca and Mario Castejon, are among those on the list that the Army gave to President Vinicio Cerezo and that the president sent to the Attorney General's Office.

Some of the people who supposedly appear on the list given to the president made statements this weekend on their alleged involvement in the coup. One of them was Gustavo Anzueto Vielman, CAN [Nationalist Authentic Central] Party presidential candidate in 1982 and communications minister in General Arana's administration from 1970 to 1974.

[Begin recording] [Anzueto] I had absolutely no involvement in Wednesday's coup attempt. I am willing to go to any court to have the situation cleared up. The only way... [changes thought] If my name really [words indistinct] to the Attorney General's Office. The coup attempt was entirely a military operation; civilians were not involved. The coup attempt is a clear sign, however, that something very wrong is happening in this country. Military, labor, private, and even student groups are not satisfied with the situation. Those responsible for resolving the country's problems should pay close attention to these expressions of dissatisfaction. If the situation is not resolved, we could reach extremes that will be regretted.

[Reporter] Do you believe a coup or a different president could resolve the country's many problems caused by [words indistinct]?

[Anzueto] It is difficult to tell, especially in a system where we make serious, delicate decisions [words indistinct]. If at any time we have to make such a decision, it would be because there is really no law, protection, or defense and because problems have reached a point that the government is unable to resolve them. If this government does not [words indistinct] the necessary solutions, then Guatemalans must make such a decision. I ask myself, how is it that a government that has been in power a little over 3 years and has spent more than 7 billion quetzales has not [words indistinct] to resolve the country's real problems, such as a lack of education, health, and security? All these problems are more serious now. If government does not [words indistinct] to resolve these problems, then the people will see actions such as the one taken by the officers as justifiable. It is, however, a decision that [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Another former presidential candidate mentioned as one of the alleged backers of the coup is Lionel Sisniega Otero, who denied that he or his son had any connection with Wednesday's events:

[Begin Sisniega recording] I believe those who talk about this subject have a great imagination. I believe most people talk without having any knowledge of the facts and are just speculating. Neither I nor my son were involved in the coup attempt. My son is an officer who has been discharged [as heard]. He heads a military unit, and he has had no problems, nor did he have any problems the day the rebellion took place. He is perfectly all right. I am not concerned at all. I did not participate in any of the 11 May events. Nevertheless, I agree with the rebel officers. I heard a comment by [name indistinct]: Those who do not know how to govern should make way for someone who can make Guatemala move forward. But that is another subject. My opinion is just an opinion; it is not an action. My opinion is based on reality, and most Guatemalan agree with it, including a large number of Christian Democrats who are disappointed with [words indistinct] government. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Honduras

Military Requests Regalado's Removal as Envoy

PA1705160388 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 17 May 88

[Communique No 17 issued by the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 16 May]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate hereby reports the following to the nation and the international community:

1. On this date, the Armed Forces have been officially notified that Infantry Colonel Rigoberto Regalado Lara has been arrested in the United States because he was reportedly carrying drugs.

2. Col Regalado Lara is currently posted as Honduran ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the Republic of Panama. Therefore, to safeguard the armed corps' prestige, the Armed Forces have addressed the president of the Republic on this very same date so he may cancel, if considered convenient, the decree appointing Col Regalado Lara as diplomatic representative.

3. The Armed Forces reassert the assurance that this action will be punished according to military laws because such punishable crimes are only a result of the officer's conduct, and are his exclusive responsibility, and not of the Armed Forces' conduct as an institution of the Republic.

Tegucigalpa, D.C., 16 May 1988

[Signed] Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate

Dismissed as Envoy

PA1705160888 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 May 88

["Text" of press communique No 030-88 issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Foreign Ministry on 16 May in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] The Honduran Foreign Ministry hereby announces the following to the local and international public:

1. Today, the U.S. Department of State informed the Honduran Foreign Ministry that Colonel Rigoberto Regalado Lara was arrested at the Miami International Airport yesterday. He is Honduras' ambassador to Panama. Regalado Lara was arrested on the charge of carrying 25 pounds of cocaine in his luggage.

2. The government of the Republic, waging as it is an open war against drug trafficking, received the news with the expected rejection and dismay.

3. It has immediately canceled the appointment of this official, with the subsequent loss of the immunity granted to him by his diplomatic status. This way, the veracity of the charges may be investigated. If his guilt were to be proven, he will be subject to the appropriate legal sanctions in the United States and in Honduras.

4. The Honduran Government reiterates its firm and unwavering decision to combat drug trafficking with all the means available to it and to punish the guilty people, without any distinction, with all the severity of the law.

Tegucigalpa, 16 May 1988.

[Signed] Information and Press Directorate of the Honduran Foreign Ministry

Army Denies FMLN Report on Antirebel Actions

PA1805024388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Honduran Army denied a Salvadoran guerrilla report linking the Honduran Army to counterinsurgency actions, presumably executed jointly with the Salvadoran Army in El Salvador.

The report that was denied was released from San Jose by FMLN Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez for the Honduran radio station Radio America.

The rebel commander, who has authored the book "Clandestine Prisons" ["Carceles Clandestinas"], is in Costa Rica with FMLN-FDR leaders to ask President Oscar Arias to promote a new dialogue between the rebels and the Salvadoran Government.

Nicaragua

Contra Detachment Leader, 5 Others Killed

PA1705183988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 88

[Report by Francisco J. Rodriguez from Jinotega]

[Text] A contra leader known as El Piloto was killed in Sunday morning, 15 May. He belonged to the Larry MacDonald regional command. EL Piloto was killed as a result of not fulfilling the agreements signed by the top leaders of the contra movement and the EPS.

Our reliable report states that El Piloto was a detachment chief and was killed in the street near Cisne when an EPS reconnaissance patrol called him and he did not reply. It was learned that five other contras were killed in the incident and four were injured. The incident resulted in a total of 10 contra casualties caused by an intransigent and warmongering attitude. These contras tried to undermine the EPS power in the mountains.

El Piloto broke the promise of staying away from the streets and did not obey previous orders. I reject the talks and I will walk wherever I want, El Piloto said. He did not obey the agreements and paid a high price for his whim.

At El Cisne Intendency, 25 km northeast of Jinotega City, people commented on Bermudez's intransigent warmongering attitude, which causes this kind of incident and leads to painful results.

Obando y Bravo Raps Press Freedom Restrictions
PA1705192688 Paris AFP in Spanish 2031 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Managua, 16 May (AFP)—Today Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo criticized the new restrictions on freedom of the press in Nicaragua announced during the weekend by the Interior Ministry's Media Directorate.

"The people have the right to be truly informed," Obando said when referring to the censorship established for economic and military information considered "sensitive" by the government agency in charge of censorship.

According to the government, the news media must "avoid yellow journalism" on topics such as the Patriotic Military Service (SMP), the war, and the economy, or else they will be punished.

"Journalists must report events and tell the truth, because the people have the right to be truly informed. Journalists must therefore work to achieve an unrestricted freedom of the press in this country," Obando y Bravo said in a morning newscast.

The cardinal stated that the limitations established on the news media concerning "sensitive" topics represent "a self-censorship for the journalist, and this precludes a democratization process."

Even though the government asserts there is freedom of the press in the country, the media law was enforced 2 weeks ago when three independent newscasts were banned for 8 days because they incorrectly reported that a worker had been killed by the police.

Central Bank Orders New Devaluation of Cordoba
PA1705211788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] The cordoba was devalued again today by 20 percent with respect to the dollar on instructions by the Central Bank, which established the rate of exchange at 13 cordobas per dollar.

The measure applied by the Central Bank is in line with a flexible exchange policy that seeks to keep the value of the cordoba from becoming inflated. The devaluation of the cordoba is expected to generate changes in the price of imported products.

Panama

Foreign Minister on Talks With U.S, Mediation
PA1705191588 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 May 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter by unidentified reporter on 17 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ritter] There are only talks with the United States. There are no agreements right now. We have not reached any agreement with the United States. Panama has repeatedly said that to reach an agreement, relations between the two nations must be normal again. One important and essential step for the normalization of relations is, of course, the lifting of the U.S. economic sanctions against Panama.

[Reporter] How do you describe the current relations between Panama and the United States?

[Ritter] I would say they are at their lowest level. [passage omitted] As for the mediation by foreign countries and foreign presidents in the Panamanian problem, we believe such mediation is not necessary right now. Panama is holding direct talks with the United States. In addition, there is a national dialogue in which the Panamanian people and political forces are participating. It is an open dialogue. In my opinion, there is no need for mediation by any other country or group of countries right now.

Details on Alleged Plot Led by Lt Col Herrera
PA1805031088 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] This afternoon members of the National Department of Investigations [DENI] held a news conference in which they showed off confiscated weapons and gave details of an alleged subversive operation coordinated by Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera and supported by Majors Adames, Villalaz, and Del Rio. Captain Lucinio Miranda gave details and introduced Eng Eduardo Sanchez, who is involved in the case.

[Begin recording] [Sanchez] I am here to say that I am a personal friend of Lieutenant Colonel, former Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who was then Panamanian ambassador to Israel. I received certain calls from the former lieutenant colonel in which he advised me that he was sending some facsimile copies, and subsequently he told me to be prepared for a call he was going

to make later regarding a meeting or a movement we were going to participate in. He asked me to contact the security boys and comrades of the late General Torrijos.

It should be pointed out that we... [corrects himself] I was in contact with him several times and subsequently with the other contacts. We were discussing the need to await instructions at the very moment that we were raided. [passage indistinct]Some of the facsimile copies that the former lieutenant colonel sent me were given to Legislator Arellano Lenox, and the others were distributed to certain communications media. Therefore, I believe that the facsimile copies were read and became the subject of consultations with the commander [not further identified].

[Miranda] The information [words indistinct] raids were the result of an investigation that led to the arrest of Mr Sanchez and others who were arrested, whom I believe you have already seen.

[Reporter] In the declaration, what was the meaning of [words indistinct]?

[Miranda] No, they tried to recruit people who worked closely with former Lt Col Herrera.

[Reporter] Tried, but did not convince them?

[Miranda] They convinced some, who are now under arrest.

[Reporter] Where is Col Herrera now?

[Miranda] I cannot tell you.

[Reporter] How many are under arrest?

[Miranda] Four have been arrested: Eduardo Sanchez, a former Lieutenant [as heard] Adames; yes, four are under arrest.

[Reporter] What are you planning to do with the legislator who was involved?

[Miranda] The legislator was not involved. He was given a facsimile copy and they talked, but he did not participate. We do not know what kind of support the legislator gave this group. We have not yet determined what it was.

[Reporter] Where were the raids carried out?

[Miranda] Here in Panama City, in different places.

[Reporter] Was anyone involved in the interior of the country?

[Miranda] No, not yet.

[Reporter] How did you detect those later arrested?

[Miranda] Through an investigation.

[Reporter] Sanchez said something about the Costa Rican border [words indistinct].

[Miranda] Supposedly, Eduardo Herrera's movement was going to come in across the Costa Rican border.

[Question indistinct]

[Miranda] We have no knowledge of any.

[Question indistinct]

[Miranda] The investigation revealed that Herrera's support came from Washington. We do not know whether it came from the Washington administration or from the group there that is opposed to our government.

[Reporter] Was the support in the form of arms or money?

[Miranda] Supposedly, support in the form of arms and money, which started last weekend.

[Reporter] Did you raid civilian homes, [homes of] retired military men?

[Miranda] Well, that of Sanchez, of Echevers—an Echevers was also involved—a company of [words indistinct]; yes, he has a company called Tropex which makes batteries. [end recording]

Commentator on Kozak Talks, 'Terrorist Plot'

PA1705133888 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In his speech last Friday and in interviews with correspondents, General Manuel Antonio Noriega shrugged off the famous negotiations by Michael Kozak. Noriega's decision is very timely, for reasons we will explain in this program.

Over the weekend I reviewed stacks of wire service reports, all of which speak of negotiations. These negotiations, however, are the last trap set by the United States for Panama. While the White House announced its intention to drop the charges against Noriega, in Tampa and Miami prosecutors Leon Kellner and Robert Merkle said they would rather resign than drop the charges. Similarly, some senators say that after the charges are dropped, there will not be any authority left to demand that Latin America or anyone else take a stand against drug trafficking. The lid was lifted from the rotten stew. The small, minute Alfonse D'Amato, whose spectacles perch on his nose as if they are about to fall, spoke up to say that in light of the current situation, there is nothing to do but remove Noriega by force.-

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater also mentioned the negotiations. But all of this is a trap. While Mr Kozak came to Panama with a very vague, ambiguous, and unspecified plan, something definite has been detected in the past few hours. It is the conspiracy the United States is implementing from Costa Rica with mercenary forces it has armed. The newspapers reported that this plot was uncovered. It means that while they distract Noriega with negotiations in which they are not committing themselves to anything but are gaining time, urban guerrillas and terrorism hover over this country. We must be very clear about this. In 1987 there were people who refused to believe the Reagan administration would go as far as it did, thinking this issue would be handled in a civilized manner, given the friendly relations between Panama and the United States.

Reagan broke all precedents, pressured by a few traitors in the White House, who are like flies circling the Senate and the State Department. He even resorted to freezing Panama's funds and to emergency economic measures that prevented U.S. citizens living in this country from paying their bills. Things reached the point that the U.S. Embassy was left without electricity.

Now, with this precedent, we can tell our viewers that we are facing a terrorist plot, an offensive by urban guerrillas, created by the United States. But they are mistaken again, because just as the Panama Defense Forces uncovered this conspiracy, so will they continue to anticipate, repel, and control any terrorist action. It is sad to report that the United States is hiring terrorists while it complains about terrorism in the Middle East and while it says in international forums that terrorism is not negotiable. Terrorism is not negotiable for Washington because it promotes terrorism when it needs it as a means to achieve its imperialist ends. We will not have to ask who is responsible if a Panamanian is killed by a bomb or by shooting or if any home is in mourning as a result of Reagan's campaign. The one responsible is the administration of this man who apparently consulted the stars and was told to sow bloodshed in Panama's calm, free territory. [passage omitted]

Group Denies Participating in FUP Dialogue

PA1705193288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 May 88 p A-10

[Letter from Mauro Zuniga, member of the People's Civic Movement (MCP), to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA editor Tomas Altamirano Duque; date not given]

[Text] Tomas Altamirano Duque, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA Editor.

Dear Editor:

On 13 May, a local television newscast reported that the MCP was participating in the national dialogue organized by the People's Unity Front [FUP] and held at the Atlapa Convention Center. Since my name was linked to this government activity, allow me to make the following comments.

1. It is inaccurate that the MCP decided to send a delegate to the FUP's dialogue.

2. The MCP feels that Panamanian history is rich with examples showing that no dialogue held at the top has been beneficial for the country's majorities. Neither the dialogue that some political leaders of the opposition held with the government through Jose I. Blandon, nor the dialogue currently being held between top Panamanian Defense Forces officers and top U.S. Government officials, nor the dialogue between top leaders of the opposition political parties and top Panamanian Government officials can establish the basis for a truly democratic process. The only dialogue the MCP accepts and promotes is a great national dialogue to be summoned by a new government and where the participation of all of Panama's social classes is guaranteed.

3. The Panamanian people should not expect absolutely anything from the dispute currently being waged between the opposition's traditional political parties and government leaders. This dispute is solely and exclusively headed toward attaining political power in order to implement the economic model that the IMF has designed for Panama. This means the dismantling of the country's agriculture and industries and the creation of a huge market of unemployeed people from the lower-class sectors. These are the indispensible elements for the success of the assembly plants model.

4. The true contradiction taking place within our society consists of the implementation of this model, which is against the country and the people, versus the implementation of the national and popular plan of Panamanian society. This latter model first of all consists of designing a Panamanian strategy to replace the dictatorship with a total democracy. Then it consists of protecting and promoting agrarian and industrial production, giving priority to satisfying the people's basic needs, demilitarizing the Panama Canal, and demilitarizing our society.

To end, it becomes imperative for each Panamanian to learn once and for all that no one from abroad is going to resolve his problems. One should not believe false expectations; one should learn that only we in Panama can give ourselves the type of government we want.

Yours truly,

For the MCP, Mauro Zuniga.

Government Checks for Contraband at U.S. Bases

PA1705162788 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 May 88 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] An open violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties was evident once again when several people were arrested, including Digna A. Kennedy, with merchandise illegally purchased in a U.S. Army commissary through authorization granted by the Panama Canal Commission [PCC].Mrs Kennedy was arrested yesterday when the Customs General Directorate of the Finance and Treasury Ministry began to carry out "Operation Sovereignty" with the support of the Traffic Department and the Military Police of the Panama Defense Forces. [passage omitted]"Operation Sovereignty" is being coordinated by the National Directorate of Technical Investigations of Customs under Captain Leslie Loaiza. Checkpoints have been placed outside all commissaries located at U.S. Army defense sites with the purpose of detecting the PCC and Armed Forces employees who are making illegal purchases in those stores. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Foreign Exchange From Exports

Luis Barletta, executive director of the Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute, said that over 3 million balboas entered Panama in foreign exchange from exports in April. Barletta added that imports amounted to 300,000 balboas, mostly in medicine, indicating that the amount exported surpassed expectations despite the current situation. He also said that Panama has exported its products to countries with which it maintains bilateral and preferential agreements, such as Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. [Summary] [*PA1705165788 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 May 88 pp 3, 8*]

Argentina

President Alfonsin Returns From Trip to PRC

PY1705182988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1754 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin arrived back from an official 3-day visit to the PRC at Ezeiza Airport at 1415 on board the Tango 0-1 presidential plane.

The chief of state reassumed the Presidency at the airport. He held a news conference in which he termed as successful the negotiations with the Chinese Government.

Jaunarena on Rights Cases, Defense Budget

PY1705185388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Asked about the cases still being heard in the courts concerning military men involved in human rights violations during the antisubversive repression war, this morning Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena said that the timetables of the courts must be respected.

The defense minister also said that the 1988 defense budget has been completed. He said that funds will not be plentiful but they will be enough to meet the specific requirements of the Armed Forces.

Jaunarena made these remarks at the metropolitan airport today shortly before departing for Puerto Belgrano to preside over a ceremony scheduled to mark Navy Day. He said that a meeting is scheduled for tonight with [Army Chief of Staff General Jose Segundo Dante] Caridi and Navy Deputy Chief of Staff Rivero Kelly, where they will discuss the lawsuits issue just in passing.

Concerning the situation arising from the trawlers fishing under British permits and docking in Uruguay, Jaunarena said that this issue concerns the Foreign Ministry because national defense is not involved.

Magazine Cites 1974 British Falklands Proposal

PY1405022888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2220 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (NA)—In May 1974, the United Kingdom proposed turning over the Malvinas Islands to Argentina after a 25-year condominium, a magazine revealed today, recalling a meeting between accredited journalists and then Foreign Minister Alberto Vignes.

Vignes, who has passed away, revealed to the journalists that the British proposal was included in a "non paper" [preceding two words in English] that then UK Ambassador to Argentina M. Hutton gave him.

According to an article published by the weekly "USTED Y LA INFORMACION," late President Juan Domingo Peron initially accepted the proposal and instructed his foreign minister to convey the approval to the British authorities.

Nevertheless, Peron died on 1 July, and when then newly-appointed UK Ambassador to Argentina Derek Ash presented his credentials to Peron's widow in September 1974, she virtually ignored Peron's earlier approval.

The magazine adds that following instruction by Peron's widow, Vignes introduced the British proposal and that then Social Welfare Minister Jose Lopez Rega interrupted to say: "The British should stop fooling around; either they surrender everything or nothing."

The weekly recalls that Luis Consillas, who was then working for NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS and who currently is a senior journalist at the Foreign Ministry press room, was the only journalist who did not keep silent about the episode.

'Influx' of UK 'Tourists' During Maneuvers

PY1305230688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2220 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (NA)—According to a metropolitan weekly an "unusual" influx of alleged British tourists took place simultaneously with the British maneuvers on the Malvinas Islands. At the same time Chilean military personnel also entered Argentina "in greater than usual numbers."

The magazine "USTED Y LA INFORMACION" published a report entitled "British Espionage in Argentina" in which it stated that all these movements "were detected and placed under surveillance by Argentine intelligence, which kept a close watch on the members of those groups and their activities."

The magazine added that the members of a tour organized by the Encounter Overland Ltd. company that came in through Puerto Yguazy were "young men and women carrying sophisticated photographic equipment and powerful transceivers capable of establishing satellite links."

It also stated that between 7 and 31 March, a total of 101 citizens from Commonwealth countries stayed at 11 Buenos Aires hotels. There were 44 Canadians, 31 Britons, 13 Australians, 9 South Africans, and 4 New Zealanders.

Argentine intelligence services also detected a station in Salta that transmits in English 12 hours a day, discussing Argentine political issues from a viewpoint favorable to the interests of Great Britain.

In its investigative report, the magazine claimed that at least one tourist company of British origin which brought groups of tourists into Argentina "may have links with the British

MI-6 (Military Intelligence) [preceding two words in English], the organization that is in charge of British espionage worldwide. The MI-6 has its offices at 21 Queen Anne Gate, a four-story building in London."

As for the Chilean military personel that entered the country "in numbers greater than usual," the report lists Chilean Army Colonel Rolando Amir Hernandez Parada, General Pedro Ewing Hodar, and Colonel Juan Herrera, who entered the country through the Las Cuevas Pass.

The report went on to say that 22 Chilean military men crossed the Argentine border in March through the Puyehue Pass, while others used the Monte Aymond Pass in Santa Cruz Province, three others used the Laurito Pass (Rio Turbio), and five more used the Maipc Pass in Mendoza Province.

According to the weekly, all this activity is part of the "main objective of the British Crown," which is to establish a strong and favorable lobby [preceding word in English] "that would allow it to exert influence in various areas."

It added that during the British military maneuvers on the Malvinas Islands, Argentine intelligence detected "frequent radio contacts between the Punta Arenas Chilean military garrison and the British command post on the Malvinas acknowledging that in March there would be a permanent satellite link through the station on Ascension Island."

It was also detected that during the same period, British subjects living in Argentina and members of the groups of tourists organized frequent meetings at a cattle ranch near Tandil, and other gatherings were held at the El Condor farm in Santa Cruz Province, which is considered one of the most sensitive strongholds of the British crown in southern Argentina.

Embalse Nuclear Plant Resumes Operations

PY1705201188 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 88

Text] The Embalse nuclear power plant has resumed operations. It is believed that it will reach full power next week.

It has been reported that the power plant is currently operating at 50 percent of its total power, that is, at about 320 megawatts.

Bolivia

ADN Reportedly Sought Aid From Drug Trafficker

PY1605191588 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0210 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] La Paz, 15 May (AFP)—The ADN, the most important Bolivian conservative political party, might have requested economic aid from Roberto Suarez Gomez, the cocaine king. This was reported to the press today by Rodolfo Antelo Garrido, a friend of Suarez Gomez.

The ADN might have submitted its request during two meetings held on 7-8 June 1985 by Suarez Gomez and ADN Deputy Alfredo Arce Carpio. The ADN is led by Hugo Banzer Suarez, Bolivian president from 1971 to 1978. One of these meetings was made public through the so-called videotape on drug trafficking, which has shocked the country.

Garrido recalled that on the days of the meetings, during which he served as host to Suarez Gomez, the National Congress was in the process of selecting the president of the Republic because neither Banzer nor Victor Paz Estenssoro received a majority of 50 percent plus one vote in the direct elections.

Garrido added that the money obtained from Suarez Gomez was to be used to buy the votes of MNR deputies and senators. In the end, the MNR candidate, Victor Paz Estenssoro, finally won the presidential election.

Arce Carpio told the press that he had interviewed Suarez Gomez as a free-lance journalist but later realized that this interview was not interesting enough for the press.

Brazil

Finance Minister Comments on Economic Package

PY1700200500 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 17 May 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The IMF experts have already received the economic adjustment plan that the Brazilian Government announced yesterday. The experts are meeting at the Central Bank to analyze the sections of the document that deal with the nation's budget.

This morning the IMF experts had coffee at the residence of Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega. Prior to this meeting, during the program "Bom Dia Brazil," Minister da Nobrega made it clear that the government made an effort to have its economic adjustment plan ready before beginning its negotiations with the IMF.

[Nobrega] "This is part of a process. We decided from the very beginning that we were not going to accept the IMF coming here and saying: Here is your economic program. We decided that we would first prepare and approve our own program, look for the necessary political support among representative political leaders, and then submit the program to the IMF, a program drafted by Brazilian experts following guidelines of the Brazilian Government and in keeping with our requirements and interests."

The minister said that any reduction of inflation is tied to the reduction of government expenditures.

[Nobrega] "I believe this time the government has decided to strike at the very root of inflation: the public deficit. There is, however, another equally important

objective: the normalization of relations between Brazil and the international financial community. This is fundamental to the struggle against inflation. The more we can normalize the influx of foreign funds, the more we will ease the pressure on public debt and the more we will be able to import; and all of this will help curb inflation. However, inflation will be curbed mainly through the reduction of government expenditures."

The minister is also concerned about maintaining high employment rates.

[Nobrega] "The basic objective of any government program should be the opening and expansion of employment opportunities. With high employment rates the workers are happy and feel secure. It is by having better employment possibilities that the workers are able to improve their real salaries. Thus, the basic objective is to create, through international negotiations and deficit control, conditions appropriate for economic growth that will generate more jobs and give the workers a sense of security."

Minister Mailson da Nobrega believes the government should set the example and tighten its belt.

[Nobrega] "There must be a joint effort from all government levels. It must make an effort to save the economy, create conditions for economic growth, and reestablish high economic and political standards. If the economy collapses, the federal government will not be the only one to lose; all of us, including the governors, will lose. Therefore, we must all be aware that the time has come to do something."

The government also announced that Brazil will receive approximately $4.5 billion from the creditor banks during the 2d half of this year.

Military 'Indifference' Toward Sarney Cited

PY1705225888 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 May 88 p 2

[By Helio Contreiras]

[Text] The image of President Sarney has suffered a considerable loss of luster in recent months. If he had the support of the Army officers, who even issued a manifesto to that effect during the time of the Cruzado Plan, "today, in the barracks, there is an attitude of indifference toward the president and a determination to not get involved in partisan politics," according to a general in Rio de Janeiro, who asked not to be identified.

In the specific case of the Senate Congressional Investigative Commission (CPI), which is probing corruption within the government, if the ministers of the Navy, Army, and aeronautics show a natural solidarity with the president, "the younger officers would neither support an attempt by the CPI to destabilize the government nor adopt a position of unconditional solidarity on the part of the Armed Forces with the president. [quotation mark as published]

The same general, who analyzed Sarney's image in the barracks, affirmed that a witch hunt disguised in a combat uniform against corruption has always aroused sentiments of revulsion among Army officers, especially among colonels, lieutenants colonels, and majors.

The military has always been sensitive to statements against corruption and to the prosecution of culprits under current legislation against officers or military ministers. In an informal meeting 2 weeks ago in military circles of Rio de Janeiro, a colonel affirmed that it would be ideal if the country's institutions were sufficiently stable so that investigations of corruption, even involving high-ranking government officials, did not cause friction between the executive and legislative branches.

In general, military officers' pronouncements on the corruption problem have been made individually. If, on the one hand, President Sarney has been criticized for permitting pressure to be exerted on the Senate CPI, on the other hand he also has the support of a former cabinet member of the Figueiredo government, namely, that of Brigadier Waldir Vasconcelos, who was then Joint Armed Forces chief of staff.

Brigadier Vasconcelos has affirmed that some accusations against the government are politically motivated, while Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca, who was Navy minister under the Figueiredo government, was more emphatic in his statements against corruption, but never cast any suspicion on the president.

A colonel who serves in Brasilia has said that he would prefer that President Sarney take the initiative of appearing before the Senate CPI to testify against corruption, thus showing his determination to not back down in the struggle against irregularities in the public sector. According to this general, by that demonstration, the president would strengthen his image, both in civilian and military circles.

According to an influential general, however, President Sarney is unlikely to receive support from Army officers if he decided to press a confrontation with the Senate CPI. The general recognized, of course, that this would have the support of his military ministers. However, that support would not be guaranteed by the military units where the officers, according to some colonels, prefer to not get involved in supporting the president to the same extent as they did in the case of the past general-presidents.

The same colonels affirmed that such support became fundamental at times, during the military regimes, to guarantee institutional stability. At that time, according to them, institutional stability was intertwined with government stability, but that is not the case now.

A position that currently has broad consensus in the three armed services is to avoid the involvement of the military institutions in political issues that are of a partisan nature. Such is the case with the term of office of President Sarney. For officers of Sao Paulo, Brasilia, and Rio de Janeiro who have analyzed the position of Army officers, it would be difficult for the Armed Forces to come out in support of President Sarney if the Constituent Assembly should decide to reduce Sarney's office term to 4 years.

Officers of the three armed branches are reluctant to get involved in some issues of a strictly political character. This option reminds us of that chosen in September 1984, when a conspiracy against the country's redemocratization was afoot (as confirmed to O ESTADO by General Octavio Costa and Army Minister Brigadier Octavio Moreira Lima). On that occasion, at a meeting of the Army High Command, there was no approval for the distribution of a note that would have signaled a red light for the political transition to a civilian government. The note was already being prepared at the Planalto Palace.

Chile

Pinochet: Yes Vote 'Only Alternative'

PY1705035388 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 88

[Report by Eliana Henriquez from Copiapo]

[Text] Today President Augusto Pinochet stated that his government is not a dictatorship and that if it was, all the politicians who go abroad to betray their fatherland would be in prison. He said they can do this because there is freedom in Chile, and this is the best proof that his government is democratic.

The president, who made this statement during a meeting with members of a women's charity organization in Copiapo, said the same traitors who deceived the people during the Popular Unity administration have lost their fear now and heve resurfaced, trying to create an atmosphere contrary to Chilean aspirations.

General Pinochet said those sectors are true political wolves and true political loafers. He said the choice is between accepting those wolves in sheep's clothing or accepting the democratic process being conducted by the government.

During a luncheon with Copiapo community members, Gen Pinochet said the campaign being carried out by the opposition sector has no limits and that they talk about dictatorship and democracy and about a dictatorship for the return to democracy [as heard]. He then asked those present whether they thought the Armed Forces had intervened with the idea of starting a dictatorship or of starting a democracy when they were asked to oust the government because it was turning us into slaves of the Soviets. Pinochet himself answered, saying that they struggled to return democracy to the country and for no other reason.

Pinochet also said that when some sectors talk about human rights they forget our people died struggling to defend freedom. He said more than 500 members of the Armed Forces and other branches died defending freedom.

Pinochet concluded by stating the the only alternative for democracy is to vote yes, to vote in favor of the government.

Former Socialist Senator Returns Illegally

PY1705040888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] Former Socialist Senator Maria Elena Carrera, who had been barred from entering the country, today arrived unexpectedly at the Santiago Appellate Court accompanied by three lawyers of the Vicariate of Solidarity.

She said that she entered the country illegally through the Cajo del Maipo mountain pass with the help of two Argentine doctors and a Chilean guide. Carrera arrived at the office of Mario Garrido, president of the Santiago Appellate Court, at approximately 0230 accompanied by lawyers Pamela Pereira, Gustavo Villalobos, and Roberto Garreton.

Carrera submitted a letter saying that she is at the disposal of the court and gave the address where she has been living since 13 May. She also said that she came to Argentina from the GDR. [passage omitted]

Police sources indicated that the former senator has not yet been arrested and that a request for such action will be submitted to the court.

Charges Investigated

PY1705185788 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Appellate Court Judge Pedro Aguirre Cerda has appointed (Jose Benguis) as trial judge to investigate the charges levelled by the Interior Ministry against former Socialist Senator Maria Elena Carrera.

The Interior Ministry has charged Carrera with violating Law 18,015 by illegally entering the country. Maria Elena Carrera was arrested last night after she voluntarily appeared before the court, stating that she had entered Chile through one of the Andean border passes.

Interior Ministry lawyer Carlos Castro, who brought the charges against the former senator, reiterated that the ban preventing her from entering the country is still in force.

Trial Judge (Benguis) has ordered the Investigative Police, which are holding Carrera at their headquarters, to bring her to him for questioning.

Carrera Indicted, Released

PY1805032288 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpt] Appellate Court trial judge (Jose Benguis) has indicted former Socialist Senator Maria Elena Carrera. He then released her on 15,000 pesos bail. (Benguis) is investigating charges brought against Carrera by the Interior Ministry for entering the country illegally. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Liberal Councilman, Mayor, Businessmen Killed

PA1705194188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpt] In Tarasaja, northern Antioquia Department, Liberal Councilman Avelino Antonio Yotagri was murdered this morning, as were two businessmen who were with him at the time.

In addition, preparations for the funeral of elected Mayor Elkin de Jesus Martinez is under way in Remedios. He was murdered at a downtown Medellin hotel. [passage omitted]

Army of National Liberation Attacks Pipeline

PA1505231888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] An attack on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline between Saravena and Arauca occurred this morning. This is the 27th pipeline damaged so far this year. Rebels of the self-styled Army of National Liberation, ELN, blew up the pipeline using dynamite. As of this time, the pumping of oil has been suspended.

The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, Ecopetrol, has lost more than 10 billion pesos as a result of these attacks. This new attack occurred at a time when the informal group of Latin American and Caribbean oil-exporting countries is meeting in Cartagena.

Bus Hits Mine; 9 Killed, 11 Injured

PA1705151088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1311 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Police sources have told AFP that 9 people died and 11 were wounded when their bus caught fire after a mine exploded on the Fresno-Manizales highway, 300 km west of Bogota.

Medical sources at the University Hospital in Manizales, where the wounded were taken, said the patients had suffered second- and third-degree burns.

According to some of the wounded, the explosion occurred at Petaqueros, and the bus immediately caught fire.

Ecuador

Borja Outlines Future Foreign Policy

PA1805043288 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1820 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpts] Quito, 17 May (DPA)—Ecuador will request admittance to the Contadora and Support Groups as part of the process of "rejoining the world," according to today's announcement by President-Elect Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja, who outlined his government's foreign policy. He is due to take office in August. "We shall put an end to this isolationist stage," Borja said, referring to the policies of the conservative government of President Leon Febres Cordero, which removed Ecuador from several international organizations, including the Contadora Group and the Nonaligned Movement.

Borja, who was elected president on 8 May when he defeated populist Abdala Bucaram in a runoff election, confirmed his intention to reestablish diplomatic relations with Nicaragua, which were unilaterally broken off in October 1986 by the Ecuadoreans.

On the foreign debt, the president-elect said that "under present conditions it is impossible to repay what we owe" because "Ecuador's problem is not merely a matter of a cash crisis but of virtual insolvency."

Borja did not specify the new programs that his government will institute, although the Social Democratic leader has repeatedly spoken out in favor of "multilateral political solutions" to the problem of Latin America's debt. [passage omitted]

On the subject of the border conflict with Peru, which includes 87 km of undefined border area and serious differences over extensive Amazon territories, Borja said that he will seek a negotiated solution "based on Ecuador's unrenounceable rights to the Amazon." [passage omitted]

Government Willing To Lower Oil Production

PA1405215788 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Yesterday Fernando Santos, Ecuadoran energy and mines minister, said in Cartagena, Colombia, that Ecuador is willing to proportionally lower its crude oil production along with the other oil-producing countries in an effort to stabilize prices in the market. He added that it is so important to stabilize crude oil prices that Ecuador is willing to sacrifice to attain that goal.

A similar statement was issued in Mexico City by Jaime Sanchez Valdivieso, director of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, who is attending a meeting of Latin American oil enterprises' leaders.

Minister Santos is in Cartagena, Colombia to attend an oil meeting with Mexican Oil Minister Fernando Hiriart, Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez, Trinidad and Tobago Oil Minister Albert Richards, and Colombian Energy Minister Guillermo Perry.

Paraguay

Stroessner Address Welcoming Pope John Paul II

PY1805003088 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 2335 GMT 16 May 88

[Speech by President Alfredo Stroessner welcoming Pope John Paul II at Government House in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] The Republic of Paraguay is greatly honored by your visit and the people are rejoicing because Your Holiness, Pope John Paul II, is in this nation of authentic Christian tradition and of profound spiritual life, toward our creator with devotion, faith, and hope.

You have come to the land of the Guaranies in the month of our independence, when we can still hear the celebrations of the heroic deed of 14 and 15 May 1811, which gave us freedom. You are here to conduct a pastoral mission, and we are certain that your mission will always be remembered and that it will remain in the minds of the people.

Relations between the Republic of Paraguay and the Vatican have always stood up for their harmony and mutual understanding. [passage omitted]

A happy and emotional event, which our people have wished for so long, took place today with the canonization of Beato Roque Gonzalez de Santa Cruz during a ceremony of great religious and spiritual value, which took place under the brilliance of the throne of St Peter and with the radiant and powerful energy of the faith of Your Holiness. [passage omitted]

We now have a saint, born in this land where heroism and moral strength are universally recognized, and this event has created great rejoicing among all the Paraguayan people. [applause]

The pope is with us. Paraguay is filled with emotion. Children, youths, men and women, nationals and foreigners feel a profound satisfaction because Your Holiness is in this country which never failed to defend its sovereignty and honor, which never denied its Christian beliefs.

We thank the Almighty, Holy Father, for being able to give you not only the affection of our smiles, our glowing faces of hope, but also this offer: the real situation of the country, a reality which is daily life. Our fatherland opens its heart to His Holiness by showing him the auspicious times it is experiencing. The Paraguay of today is a country without social or political crisis, without riots, without street disorders, without political prisoners, without hatred in which brothers spill each others blood, and without mothers dressed in mourning because of political fanatism. We are deeply happy before the Vicar of Christ because this is not a country enduring spiritual diversions or dispair. This is a united country immersed in development with social justice.

The real situation of the country, which can be seen and felt, which is reflected in the serene look of the people, in the order and tranquillity in the cities and the countryside, have been achieved, illustrious visitor, thanks to the consistent and fruitful reign of peace. Your Holiness, your great knowledge has given peace a concept full of clarity and substance.

Peace is so important that it should be proclaimed and promoted by everyone over and over. There is no human being who does not benefit from peace. There is no human heart that does not feel relieved when peace prevails.

This is why we always proclaim the great human and Christian meaning of the peace prevailing in Paraguay.

When I became president of the nation, by the mandate of the vote of the people, I said that I did not come from hate or to hate.

This concept, applied to the conduct of our leaders, represents a policy inspired in common good.

This is why we say that we have governed, and we continue to govern, with the spirit of good men. With the efforts of a long watch, faith, and fraternity, disregarding revenge and passions that lead nowhere, we have won the battle for peace which we will defend with firmness because with peace we live with order, freedom, and progress. With this peace we assure the future of new generations. Here we do not suffer the scourge of terrorism, hunger, or drugs.

According to the FAO, our people are among the best fed in Latin America. Our country, following the sacrifice of two imposed international wars, and having experiencing bloody and crucial fraticidal struggles sparked by unbridled hunger for power, now lives an era of peace, work, safety, democracy, and genuine national unity.

The most eloquent testimony of this national unity, to which we contribute to strengthen and strongly defend, is our Constitution, which was drawn up by the four political parties during a democratic National Constituent Assembly, and was sanctioned and enacted on 25 August 1967. [passage omitted]

We are a free and independent republic. We firmly defend the principle of nonintevention in the domestic affairs of other countries, the principle of self-determination of the people, and equal rights for all countries.

We are permanently with our people, sounding their concerns and aspirations. We share their patriotic and religious sentiments. [passage omitted]

The government, the people, and the loyal Armed Forces defend this sound and constructive policy that yields fruitful results in a bloodless revolution marked by a feeling of brotherhood and a productive effort seeking the Republic's moral, political, social, and cultural perfection.

We live in democracy in Paraguay, with regular and free elections like the ones held on 14 February 1988 with the participation of political parties. The elections, whose clarity was witnessed by important political personalities from all parts of the world, was developed within an atmosphere of order and civic maturity, without shedding a single drop of blood.

The National Republican Association, Colorado Party, from which we have stemmed to govern the country, won those elections by an overwhelming mayority. The Colorado Party was founded on 11 September 1887 by General Bernardino Caballero, a hero of the 1870 war. This powerful civic organization has its roots in nationalist ideals and has the merit of having struggled for the past 100 years at the service of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

Democracy to us means working in favor of human dignity and to strengthen national prestige. We have never resorted to demagoguery because lying represents an offense to God and the people.

Individual and social rights are not a mere theory in the Constitution because they are fully exercised thanks to the highways, schools, universities, churches, and hospitals we build, to rural electrification, to the vessels that sail the seas flying our national flag, and to the modern aircraft that get us to the main cities of the world in no time. Inflation is under control and the foreign debt is honored regularly.

Our country is one of the main promoters of Latin American integration. The Republic of Paraguay and the Federative Republic of Brazil have built Itaipu, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. Moreover, our country and the fraternal Argentine Republic have jointly undertaken the construction of the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam, which will represent another factor of development.

We admire your morally imposing personality that travels throughout the world lofty of spirit, dignity of character, and generous of heart, seeking unhindered roads of tolerance, understanding, and love for humanity. [passage omitted]

The Holy Father has said: "I promise that you will find God always accompanies you along the roads of peace."

In fact, our people travel freely and confidently along the road of peace, which has been achieved through patriotism and fraternal spirit, thanking Heaven for this and benefiting every day from the work done. [passage omitted]

Finally, on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Paraguay, I voice my profound hope that you will enjoy your stay with us and that your pastoral mission will continue to guide mankind and be a supreme moral teaching to all the peoples of the world.

Pope Meets With 'Builders of Society'

PY1805031888 [Editorial Report] Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish at 0123 GMT on 18 May carries live from the Asuncion sports stadium the pope's meeting with the "Builders of Society" group.

The pope began his address by saying that he wants to recall some of the principles that should serve them as guidelines. He says Christians believe man's victories are demonstrations of the greatness of God; thus, we should admit the good side of social dynamism. He adds that the church urges them to seek the path of truth. The church wants to hear the voices of men from all sectors, he says, and man must build in all sectors of society. However, the pope continues, there are some structures that do not serve man, but turn against him. The presence of evil, of human egoism, hinders the church's principles.

The pope stresses that truth must be the basis of all social structure. He adds: "The simultaneous enforcement of values like peace, freedom, justice, and participation are essential requisites to be able to speak of a real democratic society based on the free consensus of the citizenry. Therefore, it is not possible to speak of real freedom and much less of democracy when there is no real participation of all the citizens in the making of the great decisions that affect the life and the future of the nation." "Peace does not come from any social organization where a few individuals impose, for their own benefit, a principle of discrimination [applause] according to which the rights and the existence of the rest of the people depend on the arbitrariness of the strongest. [applause]"

The pope continues: "Peaceful coexistence is opposed by those forces who try to impose violence and hatred as practical solutions to conflicts. That is why Christian [words indistinct] cannot forget that the noble struggle for justice must not be confused in any way with that system which sees in the struggle of the classes the only means to eliminate class injustices that exist in society and in the classes themselves. [applause]"

The pope urges his listeners to help the needy. The poverty here could lead to confrontations, he says; that is why you must work for the benefit of all citizens. He says the church believes man can find his way; thus, the church does not propose political or economic programs, as long as the rights of men are respected. He closes by saying that he wants to inspire his listeners to work in a spirit of peace and to overcome hatred with justice and charity.

Laino, Other PLRA Leaders Released 14 May

PY1705184188 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 May 88 p 88

[Text] Yesterday the police of Yby Yau released Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) President Dr Domingo Laino. Laino and other PLRA members were arrested while attending a mass in Arroyito, Horqueta.

Laino left for Asuncion yesterday at 1315 together with the other PLRA members who had also been released. They are: Carlos Caballero Roig, Ceferino Villalba, Luis Espinola, Raimundo Valenzuela, Justino Mendoza, Francisco Diaz, Daniel Ponce, Domingo Ponce, Acasio Ruben Gonzalez, and Sindulfo Garcia.

Isaias Valenzuela, 12, was also arrested with the PLRA leaders but had been released earlier.

Laino and the PLRA leaders were arrested in Arroyito after scuffling with the police. They were not released even after the mediation of the Arroyito parish priest.

Several PLRA leaders have reported that the detainees began a hunger strike, demanding their immediate release and to protest over their critical situation, because the prison where they were being held was too small to lodge so many prisoners.

Laino's wife, Mrs Rafaela Guanes de Laino, said that until the very moment when her husband was released the real situation was not known "because police officials from Yby Yau, Horqueta, and the ministry office in Concepcion flatly denied that the PLRA leaders were being held there."

Police Arrest Priest, 3 Union Leaders

PY1705024488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0057 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Asuncion, 16 May (EFE)—Today the Paraguayan police arrested one priest and three union leaders of an opposition group whose members have declared a hunger strike in demand of social rights. The measure coincides with the visit to Paraguay of Pope John Paul II, who arrived in Asuncion today.

This afternoon the archbishop's Board of Laymen, which is subordinate to the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference (CEP), reported the arrest of Jesuit priest Analdo Gallinger, peasants Celestino Chamorro and Victor Benitez, and bank clerk Ruben Lisboa.

These people were arrested when the priest and his associates were leaving La Encarnacion Church in downtown Asuncion, where yesterday some 150 peasants and Asuncion union leaders started a hunger strike to protest the Paraguayan situation.

The protest is organized by the multisectorial committee, which comprises 18 independent political and social organizations that oppose General Alfredo Stroessner's regime.

Other members of the multisectorial committee have declared a hunger strike at the state-owned Hospital de Clinicas and at the Paraguayan Inter-Union Movement (MIT) headquarters, which does not belong to the official Paraguayan Workers Confederation (CPT).

Peasant leader Marcelino Corazon Medina, in a statement to the Catholic radio station Caritas made at La Encarnacion Church, said the police are surrounding the church and not allowing anybody in or out.

Medina, who has been persecuted on several occasions for his union activities during Stroessner's government, said the situation experienced by his fellows, among whom are women and children who require medical assistance, is "very difficult."

Medina asserted that "our decision is to continue until the end," and he added that the strike supports "the demands of the peasants, who are in a deplorable situation."

Taiwanese Foreign Minister Ends Visit

PY1705183188 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 May 88 p 12

[Excerpts] Yesterday ROC [Republic of China] Foreign Minister Ding Mou-shih ended his 7-day official visit as a special guest of the Paraguayan Government. During his stay, Mou-shih conducted several activities. He met with Paraguayan President General Alfredo Stroessner and with the majority of the Paraguayan ministers. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, shortly before departing from Paraguay, Minister Deng Mou-shih and his entourage were seen off with military honors by the Paraguayan foreign minister, the ROC Embassy staff, and members of the Chinese community in Asuncion.

Peru

President Garcia Addresses New Cabinet

PY1705033888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 May 88

[Speech by President Alan Garcia from Government Palace in Lima on the swearing in of the new cabinet—live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Through Guillermo Larco Cox I wish to pay homage and voice my gratitude to the outgoing cabinet members. I greet the members of the new cabinet through Armando Villanueva, APRA leader and supporter of long-standing causes (?upheld) by Haya de la Torre. I have confidence that this new cabinet will contribute to responding strongly to subversion as well as to the economic problems we are experiencing.

We have already said the situation is difficult, partly due to our own mistakes, to the desire to grow fast. As a consequence we have neglected exports and engaged in some backwardness in order to promote reactivation. This crisis has nothing to do with paying our foreign debt or the enrichment of small groups. It is an obstacle prompted by the fast growth experienced during the past 2 years. Therefore, the crisis has a different social and political meaning. However, we must not forget that the root of our problems lies in the organization and economic structure of our country, whose agriculture has only now completed 4 years of sustained growth, whose industry consumes many dollars, and whose most needy sectors lack many things. We must not forget all this, because we can only change it with long years of sustained work. We must not be impatient or lose hope. In view of the difficult times, we must now listen to new voices. We need to conciliate these voices and appeal to the great strength that the unity of Peru represents. We must also sharpen and make better use of our economic tools or, if necessary, change our economic tools.

One thing we cannot do is betray our social objectives and the ideals that guide us. In other words, we can make different use of the economic tools and make fewer mistakes caused by our enthusiasm, but always in defense of the basic ideals: first, national independence from any economic or political imperialism; second, continental integrity; third, the increase of production, and if this is not possible at all levels, increased production for the poor majority and essential goods; fourth, the redistribution of wealth, which is the principle of justice because, despite the economic difficulties, we must not allow a crisis that will concentrate wealth in the hands of only a few; fifth, Peru's immediate regionalization as a historic means to grant the people political and economic responsibility, to distribute wealth, and to improve investments; sixth, the consolidation of an ever-growing participation of the society—neither the crisis nor fear should drive us away from the masses or the people's spontaneous organizations, from the peasant communities, from the mothers' groups, from the slum-dwellers, from the cooperatives—and seventh, government solidarity to pay heed to the most pressing issues and the education of our children for the future. I am certain that in all these subjects that I have briefly mentioned we will remain loyal to the ideals that inspire us.

In the field of security and antisubversive struggle, I believe we must brandish the Constitution and implement every measure it provides. Sometimes we make romantic concessions that end up justifying death. [sentence as heard] Other times, due to a lack of strength, we interrupt democratic governments. It is our duty to show that democracy can be energetic and strict. We must prove that democracy can defend itself, that it knows how to organize the people, and that it knows how to punish. I believe the prime minister and each and every minister will make the necessary contribution in the struggle against subversion and the murderers, thus showing Peru that the government elected by the people knows how to fight.

To all of Peru I express my belief that this team, headed by such an important man, will make every effort to resolve the current problems, within a framework of changes that we started about 3 years ago, and which will be consolidated for the well-being of the fatherland.

I welcome the prime minister, the cabinet, and the government of the nation. I welcome our fellow party member Armando Villanueva del Canto. [applause]

Uruguay

Foreign Minister on Chileans, Trip to Brazil

PY1405155888 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Uruguay has not offered to receive the three Chilean citizens sentenced to death by General Augusto Pinochet's regime. This information was disclosed by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano upon his arrival from the United States and Brazil, where he made arrangements for the upcoming summit of presidents of the Latin American Group of Eight.

[Begin recording] [Barrios] We have proposed some dates, but the agendas of the presidents are very busy—some of them will be tied up with elections—so we are trying to find a date between August and October.

[Reporter] Regarding the agenda, agreements establishing the actions to be taken this year were signed last year. What concrete actions will be taken during the upcoming meeting?

[Barrios] I believe the basic agreement reached in Acapulco is being carried out, that is, implementation of the coordination and consultation mechanism that was created. In other words, the Group of Eight does not make decisions or take actions jointly, independently, behind the back of, or in confrontation with other multilateral organizations in the area, such as the OAS. It is an organization comprising countries that share a special affinity in their political and democratic ideals that meets to coordinate actions—which is what we are doing, such as the socio-economic development program for Central America—as well as for consultation purposes. It is good that we can become informed and contribute our points of view when a problem rises. This allows more intelligent and coherent action and gives the group more weight. In other words, we are all trying to optimize our points of agreement.

[Reporter] What subjects did you discuss with your Brazilian counterpart?

[Barrios] I discussed this subject with the Brazilian Government authorities and briefed them on the meeting—Sodre was not able to go to New York because he

was just arriving back from the PRC. I also met with Sarney, not only about this subject but also about his concern over the situation in Panama.

[Reporter] Did you discuss bilateral relations with President Sarney or Foreign Minister Sodre?

[Barrios] Yes, I did. [Words indistinct] I would have forgotten to mention this had you not asked. The most important subject I discussed with them was the need to implement the necessary measures for an effective dialogue regarding the navigation channels of the Parana and Paraguay Rivers, which are very important in allowing Bolivia and Paraguay to have an outlet to the Atlantic through Uruguayan ports. To us, who provide port services, this also represents a very important outlet.

[Reporter] According to information from Chilean citizens living in our country who have met with you, the Uruguayan Government may grant political asylum to the three people sentenced to death in Chile. Is this true?

[Barrios] No, that is not true. I was asked to look into the case of these three Chileans sentenced to death, which I did immediately. But the request for asylum is a different matter. One does not have to offer asylum. It is already there. But in order to grant asylum, certain conditions have to be met. [Passage indistinct] In the first place, a request for asylum must be made, and in this case it has not. Neither do we know the details of legal actions taken against these people or the reasons they have been sentenced. Therefore, it is very difficult to offer asylum without the necessary background information. [passage omitted]

Barrios Says Group of 8 Willing To Aid Panama

PY1405191788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1535 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Montevideo, 14 May (EFE)—Today Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano asserted that the Latin American countries, and especially the Group of Eight, "are willing to help Panama when the Panamanians request it."

The Uruguayan minister returned Friday, 13 May, from the United States and Brazil, where he met with his counterparts of the "Group of Eight of Rio" to discuss the upcoming summit of Latin American presidents and the Panamanian situation.

The "Group of Eight" comprises the members of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama—which has been suspended—and Venezuela) and the Contadora Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay).

Barrios Tassano asserted that neither these countries nor any international organization, including the OAS, can intervene in Panama unless the Panamanians ask. He added: "On the contrary, it would be an act of intervention, and we fully respect the principle of nonintervention."

According to the Uruguayan minister, "35,000 jobs have been lost in Panama since the economic blockade was imposed, and the socioeconomic situation is worsening."

Barrios Tassano said there are signs of a solution. The United States and Panama maintain "some dialogue; therefore, there is hope that some progress will be made."

The foreign minister said that "the situation is very complicated, because beyond the political difficulties, the Panamanian situation has now become notorious [golpea]."

The "Group of Eight" decided to suspend Panama as a preventive measure until the internal situation caused by the ouster of democratically elected president, Eric Delvalle, is resolved.

Delvalle was forced to leave the presidency on 26 February after unsuccessfully trying to oust Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Presidential Nomination Campaigns Begin

PY1705041688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1422 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Montevideo, 16 May (AFP)—Two of the eight Uruguayan presidential candidates formally launched their campaigns for nomination this weekend despite President Julio Sanguinetti's request that the electoral process take place during 1989, when the next elections will take place.

On Saturday, 14 May, in Las Piedras city (25 km north of Montevideo), Jorge Batlle, senator for the governing Colorado Party, was proclaimed during a party meeting that marked the beginning of a political campaign that will take him all over the country.

Batlle, who was presidential candidate in 1966 and 1971, and current Uruguayan Vice President Enrique Tarigo are the two candidates from which the Batllists—the majority sector of the Colorado Party—will have to choose their nominee during the second half of next year.

Jorge Pacheco, former president and current ambassador to Paraguay, is another presidential candidate of the Colorado Party. Pacheco is leader of the Colorado Party. Pacheco is leader of the Colorado Party's minority rightist sector.

On Sunday, 15 May, National or Blanco Party Senator Luis Alberto Lacalle was publicly proclaimed for the first time as a presidential candidate in Rivera Department (540 km north of Montevideo) and announced that he will spend the next 18 months engaged in the electoral campaign.

Lacalle is the candidate for the right wing of the National Party. Alberto Zumaran (center) and Carlos Pereyra (left) are other possible National Party candidates.

The leftist sector still has not proclaimed anyone, but it is believed that Broad Front leader Liber Seregni and/or Hugo Batalla, leader of the Party for the Government of the People (PGP), will participate in November 1989.

Diplomatic Mission Planned for Beijing
PY1805122088 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] The government has decided to open a diplomatic and consular mission in the PRC. The Uruguayan mission will have its headquarters in Beijing and will have jurisdiction throughout the PRC.

Guyana

Appointment of New Attorney General Denounced
FL1405153788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Controversy continues in Guyana over the appointment of the country's new attorney-general.

The Organization of Caribbean Bar Associations has joined with the Guyana Bar Association in denouncing the appointment of former chancellor of the judiciary, Mr Keith Massiah, to the government post of attorney-general and minister of legal affairs.

Controversy Over Delegation to Cuba
FL1705160488 Bridgetown CANA in English 1347 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 16, CANA—Squabbling has broken out here over the composition of a parliamentary delegation invited to visit Cuba early next month, well informed sources said.

The sources said that when parliamentarians met last Thursday under the chairmanship of Speaker Sase Narain to decide on the composition of the eight-member team, they could not agree and the meeting ended following a decision to seek further clarification from the Cubans.

The invitation from the Cuban Government provides for a team comprising the speaker, a parliamentary official, and six MP's.

However, the four parties represented in the assembly—the ruling People National Congress (42 seats), the Peoples Progressive Party (8 seats), the United Force (2 seats), and the Working Peoples Alliance (1 seat) — have been unable to agree on which six MP's should go.

The opposition parties reportedly suggested that the six should be divided equally between the government and opposition benches. But the PNC, which has more than two thirds of the seats, objected, contending that the distribution should be more in keeping with actual party representation in the assembly.

Suriname

Aid Talks Start in Critical Atmosphere
PM1705145188 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 10 May 88 p 3

[Theo Klein dispatch: "Suriname Demands Half a Billion in Development Aid"]

[Text] Paramaribo—Yesterday on the 1st day of talks on Netherlands development aid the Surinamese Government made demands totaling half a billion guilders. Paramaribo wants reimbursement for the 260 million guilders Suriname has invested in development projects since 1982 and also wants money for an emergency economic program, the cost of which could total 25 million guilders per month.

According to the Arron government, this crash plan—intended to run for a year—is the minimum necessary to end the economic recession. Yesterday Development Cooperation Minister [Piet] Bukman immediately rejected the demand for reimbursement. But there will be further negotiations on the size of the emergency plan.

The Surinamese and Netherlands delegations are diametrically opposed on the subject of the reimbursement. According to Surinamese Foreign Minister Sedoc the sum covers projects which at the time when the Netherlands suspended its aid in 1982 had already been approved by the Netherlands-Suriname joint commission. Consequently Suriname carried these projects through with its own money. However, in Minister Bukman's view giving in on this point would "create the impression that the Netherlands is retrospectively reconsidering its 1982 decision to suspend aid."

The Surinamese emergency program consists of a number of unspecified investments. Yesterday Finance Minister Mungra described the implementation of this package "a matter of life or death." The Netherlands is not very likely to agree to the whole program. Acceding to all Suriname's financial demands would mean that almost one-third of the 1.6 billion guilders still owed to Suriname would have to be handed over in the short term.

Suriname has made the crash program the main topic in the negotiations. It is expected that over the next few days the negotiations on this point will be tough. In his opening speech yesterday Prime Minister Arron stressed that the halting of Netherlands aid is an important cause of the economic misery in Suriname. Combined with the loss of income from the bauxite industry it has made a difference of 1 billion guilders in investment since 1982. "Indications of lost potential are to be found in all sectors of the economy," the prime minister said, vowing that Suriname will also put things in order in its own house.

Yesterday the delegations reached agreement on the term of the agreement, which was fixed in 1975 to run 10-15 years. It was decided to add the 5 and 1/2 years

during which aid has been suspended to the term of the agreement, so that money will remain available at least until 1996. The official date of the reintroduction of the agreement has been set at 3 May 1988. In a conversation with President Shankar yesterday Bukman stressed that the population of eastern Suriname must also be able to profit from the development aid. This requires a solution to the conflict with the Brunswijk group.

On the eve of the Netherlands-Suriname negotiations Army leader Bouterse was very critical of the Netherlands approach and the dependent attitude of the Surinamese. According to the SNA press agency, at a meeting of his National Democratic Party he spoke of a standstill in development in Suriname "because everyone is sitting waiting for The Netherlands." But development has nothing to do with The Netherlands, Bouterse said. "It is to do with the prospects contained in our own possibilities."

According to the Army leader it was a disgrace that The Netherlands Government sent a burnt-out politician like De Gaay Fortman to the installation of President Shankar earlier this year. Minister Van den Broek exceeded his powers in March when he held talks with all sorts of social organizations. He should have concerned himself with his counterpart Sedoc, Bouterse said.

The Netherlands minister had no need to talk with him because Van den Broek had kept none of the agreements originally reached at the talks in Brazil. The commander did not indicate which agreements these were. In the talks with Bukman this week the Surinamese Government must simply demand the money to which it has a right. Bouterse said: "The people must be brought onto the streets to support such a stance by the government."

Aid Resumption Discussed

FL1305154088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] A top Dutch official is on his way home following 3 days of talks in Suriname. The minister of development and cooperation, Piet Bukman, met with top Surinamese officials to discuss a resumption of Dutch aid to the former colony. He admitted no agreement was reached as yet but talks are scheduled to continue in July.

Aid Greeted 'Cooly'

FL1405152188 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The Dutch Government says it will grant almost 16 million dollars to Suriname as the first payment of its aid program to the country.

This announcement came after a 3-day visit to Suriname by the Dutch minister of development and cooperation, Piet Bukman. The 16 million dollar grant has been greeted cooly by the Surinamese Government. Surinamese Foreign Minister Edwin Sedo says the Dutch Government should reimburse Suriname for the damage for the aid cutoff.